# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

STEWART ABRAMSON, individually and on behalf of a class of all persons and entities similarly situated,

Plaintiff

VS.

LINE 5, LLC and HEADSTART WARRANTY GROUP LLC

Defendants.

Case No. 2:25-cv-00288-PLD

#### **JOINT REPORT OF RULE 26(f) MEETING**

In accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) and Local Rule 16.1, counsel for the parties submit the following joint report of their meeting for the court's consideration:

#### 1. Identification of Counsel and Unrepresented Parties

a. Plaintiff Stewart Abramson ("Plaintiff")

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b. Defendant Line 5, LLC

Brit J. Suttell Barron & Newburger, P.C. 6100 219th St. SW, Suite 480 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Phone: 484.999.232

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#### c. Defendant Headstart Warranty Group ("HWG")

Andrew M. Schwartz, 935 E. Lancaster Ave., #1003 Downingtown, PA 19335

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#### 2. General Nature of the Case

Plaintiff's Position: Plaintiff has brought this action under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. § 227, a federal statute enacted to regulate telemarketing practices. See Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC, 132 S. Ct. 740, 745 (2012). Plaintiff alleges that telemarketing calls were made by and for the benefit of Line 5, LLC and Headstart Warranty Group LLC ("Defendants"). Defendants benefitted from unsolicited telemarketing calls, including robocalls and other telemarketing calls made to residential telephone numbers that are listed on the National Do Not Call Registry. Because telemarketing calls typically use technology

capable of generating thousands of similar calls per day, the Plaintiff sues on behalf of a proposed nationwide class of other persons who received similar calls. It is expressly denied that HWG's calls using AIM AI d/b/a Safeguard My Car were made in compliance with any law, as the Plaintiff did not consent and the calls were highly illegal prerecorded robocalls. Indeed, AIM's own marketing materials show that AIM's use of an Artificial Intelligence voice to send prerecorded calls is a selling point of the service. Moreover, the Plaintiff assers a direct liability case against Line 5, as it is Line 5 that placed some of the calls at issue directly to the Plaintiff.

Defendants' Position:

HWG – Plaintiff asserts claims under the TCPA against HWG. At the outset, HWG contends that Plaintiff cannot maintain a class claim because of the earlier-filed class action, *Joseph Friel, et al., v. HWG, et al.*, in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Case 3:24-cv-01866-JKM, involving the same class members and overlapping class allegations. Because HWG did not engage in telemarketing, HWG secured the marketing services and expertise of AIM AI, LLC, to place compliant telemarketing calls for a sample of telephone numbers (including Friel and Abramson's telephone numbers). The results of this test were unremarkable, and HWG ceased using AIM AI, LLC for telemarketing experiments. Line 5 was not involved in the outgoing calls placed by AIM and had no control over the content or manner in which these calls were placed. HWG does not believe a nationwide class is viable or that Abramson can advance a class claim against HWG that is not otherwise subsumed by the *Friel* matter. HWG contends that this action should be dismissed or withdrawn in light of the *Friel* litigation.

<u>Line 5:</u> Defendant Line 5, LLC ("Line 5") denies that it made, authorized, supervised, or had any control over any alleged telemarketing calls. Line 5 does not make any telemarketing

calls nor did Line 5 authorize any telemarketing calls to be made on its behalf or for its benefit

by Defendant Headstart Warranty Group LLC. Line 5 did not authorize any calls to be made on

its behalf or for its benefit by unnamed third-party AIM AI, LLC; nor did Line 5 authorize,

permits or ratify any actions by Headstart to employ the use of the unnamed third party AIM AI,

LLC. Line 5 further denies that it received any "STOP" or request to cease sending previously

consented-to text messages from Plaintiff after Plaintiff signed the financing agreement for his

warranty. Line 5 also contends that a nationwide class is not viable or that Plaintiff can advance

class claims against Line 5 either as to the alleged unauthorized telemarketing calls or

unauthorized text messages.

3. Date of Rule 26(f) Conference

The Rule 26(f) conference was held on June 3, 2025, and was attended by Anthony

Paronich for the Plaintiff, Andrew M. Schwartz and Barry Guaglardi for Defendant HWG and

Brit Suttell for Defendant Line 5.

4. Date of Rule 16 Conference Scheduled by the Court

The Court has scheduled the Rule 16 conference to be held on June 20, 2025.

**5.** Anticipated Rule 12 Motions: Defendants intend to file a Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1)

motion to dismiss in light of the first-filed Friel class action.

6. Designation of ADR Process:

**Plaintiff:** Mediation

**Defendant:** Mediation

7. Rule 26 Disclosures

June 20, 2025

8. Subjects of Discovery

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# A. Plaintiff's Proposed Subjects of Discovery

Plaintiff seeks discovery on the following subjects: (1) Defendants' and/or third-party call data regarding Plaintiff and the class; (2) identification of class members; (3) Defendants' policies and procedures regarding compliance with the TCPA; (4) Defendants' affirmative defenses, such as any consent to make the calls at issue; (5) Defendants' negligence or willfulness regarding any TCPA violations; (6) Defendants' document retention policies; (7) identification of witnesses; and (8) Defendants' relationship with any third parties that may have relevant information surrounding this matter.

## B. <u>Defendants' Proposed Subjects of Discovery</u>

Defendants intend to seek discovery as to (1) Plaintiff's various other TCPA claims and remuneration, (2) tangible harms and damages, (3) Plaintiff's interactions with HWG and Line 5, (4) Plaintiff's witnesses and (5) facts supporting Plaintiff's claims against HWG and Line 5, (5) Plaintiff's text messages regarding Plaintiff's alleged request for text messages to stop.

# 9. Suggested Dates

Event	Parties' Proposal
Additional Parties	September 19, 2025
Pleadings Amended	September 19, 2025
Submit Plaintiff's Expert Report(s)	December 18, 2025
Submit Defendants' Expert Report(s)	January 15, 2026

Fact Discovery Completed	March 6, 2026
File Motion to Certify Class	March 13, 2026
Post-Discovery Status Conference	TBD by the Court

## 10. Changes to Limitations in Discovery

None.

# 11. Electronic Discovery

The parties expect much discovery will be in electronic form, but the parties do not believe an ESI special master is needed at this time. The parties will work together to develop an ESI discovery plan.

# 12. Post-Discovery Status Conference

The parties are requesting a post-discovery status conference.

#### **13. Rule 16 or 26 Orders**

The Defendant will submit a proposed Confidentiality/Protective Order regarding treatment of documents produced in discovery by June 19, 2025.

### 14. Special Master

The parties are not requesting the appointment of a special master relating to any issues at this time.

# 15. Disagreements between the Parties in this Report.

The only disagreements between the parties are as indicated above.

Dated: June 12, 2025 PLAINTIFF,
By his attorneys

## /s/ Anthony I. Paronich

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#### /s/ Andrew M. Schwartz

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Counsel for Defendant Headstart Warranty Group, LLC

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing was filed through the Court's CM/ECF system, giving notice to all parties of record.

/s/ Anthony I. Paronich
Anthony Paronich